

05/04/2007

Dear Friend:

During the last two weeks, the House of Representatives has taken major steps to ensure that future generations of Americans continue to lead the world in scientific innovation and successfully compete in the global economy. As part of our Innovation Agenda, we passed four major pieces of legislation with overwhelming bipartisan support.

On April 24, 2007, we voted on two important bills, H.R. 362, the 10,000 Teachers for 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act, and H.R. 363, the Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act. H.R. 362, which passed by a vote of 389-22, will establish a program at the National Science Foundation (NSF) that offers scholarships to science, math and engineering students who commit to teaching at elementary or secondary schools. This legislation will add up to 10,000 math and science teachers every year for our youngest minds, while encouraging the continued development of those at the highest levels of the math and science fields. H.R. 363 will utilize grants and establish a Presidential Innovation Award to increase support for long-term scientific research and encourage young scientists and researchers to pursue high-risk/high-reward studies. It passed the House by a vote of 397-20.

The House also passed H.R. 1867, the NSF Authorization Act of 2007, on May 2, and passed H.R. 1868, the Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act of 2007, on May 3. The NSF Authorization Act of 2007, which passed 399 – 17, authorizes nearly \$21 billion for the NSF for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 through FY2010, while keeping the NSF on a path to double its funding within 10 years. The Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act of 2007 authorizes appropriations for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for FY2008 – FY2010, including construction and maintenance of NIST facilities, scientific and technical research and services laboratory activities, and the Malcom Baldrige National Quality Award program, a public-private partnership that recognizes American businesses and nonprofit organizations for quality and performance. H.R. 1868 passed by a vote of 385-23.

I am proud to have supported all the components of the Innovation Agenda. I believe advancements in science and technology offer the best hope for solutions to many of the critical concerns our community faces today, from energy independence to environmental sustainability to healthcare. I applaud this effort to enable our best and brightest minds develop the technologies that will usher in a new and sustainable industrial revolution.

Thank you for reading my update, and if you have questions or comments on this or any other federal issue, please feel free to contact me.

For more information on this or any federal issue, please visit my website at www.tomudall.house.gov.

Very Truly Yours,

Tom Udall
Member of Congress